

THERE were 700 unlucky people in High Wycombe on Saturday afternoon. They were the football fans who went to Loakes Park and saw Wycombe Wanderers give one of their worst performances for many years.

Wanderers went down without a fight to lowly Carshalton, who actually recorded their first Isthmian League win of the season at their 15th — yes, fifteenth — attempt.

At the end of the match some fans were shouting 'Bring back John Reardon' while even club officials could be heard muttering 'diabolical'.

By MICHAEL KNOX Wycombe W 0, Carshalton 2

It all adds up to a big problem for manager Andy Williams, only a few months after succeeding Reardon.

Blues' performances have been deteriorating week by week but on Saturday they must have reached rock bottom — it's just impossible for them to get worse — or is it?

The most damning feature of Wycombe's display was their evident lack of workrate and organisation. Whether they thought they could stroll through the match and still win against meagre opposition, I do not know. But they cer-

tainly gave that impression.

Under the heading of workrate comes running off the ball, tackling back when beaten and support play. All three of the aspects were visibly lacking.

While Carshalton, who thoroughly deserved their victory, were letting the ball do the work with neat one-twos, Wycombe were constantly hurried into errors, and their passing was second rate.

Carshalton rarely looked in any trouble — largely because the opposition were so predictable. Blues lacked any flair and speed. The departure of Derek Harris to Maidenhead and the decision to leave Dylan Evans on the substitute's bench, left

the side desperately short of pace.

I also question some of the tactics and dead ball situations. Skipper Mick Hollifield, I feel, overdoes the near post cross to Steve Hardwick from corners, while on Saturday we also had the extraordinary sight of Wycombe lining up a wall — at one of their own free kicks!

Changes

Dissatisfied by recent performances, Mr Williams made five changes for this match. Out went Keith Mead, Dave Allanson, Les Reed, Paul Birdseye (injured), and Evans (to sub). In came Garry Fowles, John Priestley, plus the fit-again Stewart Atkins. Steve Long

and Bobby Davies.

I am fully aware of the crippling list of injuries at Loakes Park this season, but surely after 17 matches Mr Williams should have decided on his best team by now.

If this is the best outfit he has — bar the injured John Maskell and Paul Birdseye — then I suggest the club use the £450 they received for Harris, to strengthen the squad, especially in midfield.

Carshalton who dictated the pace of the game took the lead in the 26th minute following an error by Peter Spittle, who two yards off his line could only parry Peter Gaydon's header on to the cross bar. Garry Allen scored from the rebound.

They held that lead comfortably until half-time and only once in the whole match was their goalmouth under attack. That came in the 69th minute when Long looked to have scored before defender Steve Bangs effected an acrobatic clearance off the line.

Mr Williams became so concerned about his side's lack of bite upfront that he brought on Evans for defender Garry Fowles 12 minutes from the end.

Blues therefore fielded an attacking 3-3-4 formation but they paid the price for that gamble when Alan Walker scored following good work by Tony Maurice and Richard Reynolds. Alan Phillips it was who made the mistake and there was no extra man to cover up for him.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle, S. Hardwick, R. Davies, G. Fowles (sub D. Evans 70 mins), A. Phillips, J. Priestley, S. Atkins, M. Hollifield, S. Long, H. Kennedy, T. Scott.

CARSHALTON: I. Finch, A. Maurice, S. Bangs, T. Coombe, P. Gaydon, R. Kember, D. Burke, G. Dennis, R. Reynolds, A. Walker, G. Allen (sub P. Dade 63 mins).

Referee: M. G. Richardson (Chislehurst).

Half-time 0-1. Scorers: Carshalton Allan (26 mins), Walker (83).

Attendance: 700.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION (Up to October 22)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	19	12	2	5	35	18	33
Croydon	15	10	2	3	30	15	32
Leathem'd	16	9	2	5	30	14	29
Hendon	18	8	5	5	27	26	29
Wycombe	18	8	4	6	27	18	28
Dulwich	13	7	5	1	17	7	28
Waltham's w	15	8	2	5	25	16	26
Dagenham	17	8	2	7	24	27	26
Barking	14	7	4	3	36	25	25
Hitchin	17	7	3	7	22	25	25
Woking	14	6	5	3	26	20	23
Totting	19	6	5	8	24	27	23
Boreham Wd	15	6	4	5	19	16	22
Slough	13	6	3	4	12	10	21
Oxford	15	5	3	7	19	30	18
Staines	16	4	4	8	20	26	17
Tilbury	19	4	3	9	22	39	15
Hayes	18	3	5	8	18	29	14
Sutton	15	3	3	9	14	23	12
Carshalton	15	1	0	6	17	25	11
Kingston	13	2	3	8	9	22	9
Leytonst'e	13	1	2	10	8	22	5

Friendly

WYCOMBE Wanderers have fixed up a friendly away to Farnborough tonight (Tuesday), kick-off 7.30 pm. Farnborough are one of the top teams in Division Two of the Berger Isthmian League.



A split second before Carshalton's opening goal on Saturday. Blues goalkeeper, Peter Spittle, under pressure from his own defender Alan Phillips, can only palm the ball on to the bar. The rebound was put home by No. 11 Gary Allen.